

WE CLAIM:

Claim 1 An apparatus for mimicking human-like expressions comprising:

- 5 a first rotatable means having an attachment point thereon;
an inflection-deflection pin located on said first rotatable means;
a second rotatable means also having an attachment point thereon;
an inflection-deflection pin located on said second rotatable means, wherein said
second rotatable means is driveably connected to said first rotatable means so that said first
10 and second rotatable means rotate simultaneously, and wherein said first and second rotatable
means have substantially parallel plains of rotation;
an elastic means attachable to said attachment point on said first and second rotatable
means, and wherein the plain of said elastic means is substantially parallel to the plain of
rotation of said first and second rotatable means; and,
15 a drive means for driving at least one of said rotatable means,
wherein said first and second rotatable means rotate in opposite directions and
wherein said first and second rotatable means causes said elastic means to assume forms
suggestive of human expression and, further, wherein said inflection-deflection pins contact
said elastic means when said first and second rotatable means rotate in order to deform said
20 elastic means and make said human expressions more realistic.

Claim 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said elastic means comprises a circular elastic
means having a hole in the center thereof and said attachment point pass through the hole in
center of said circular elastic means.

Claim 3 The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said first and second rotatable means comprise
gears having teeth that mesh with each other.

Claim 4 The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising:

- 30 a base,
wherein said first and second rotatable means are mounted on said base.

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Claim 5 The apparatus of claim 4 further comprising:

a third rotatable means having an attachment pin and an inflection-deflection pin mounted thereon,

5 wherein said attachment point also passed through the hole in said center of said circular elastic means.

Claim 6 The apparatus of claim 5 further comprising:

a fourth rotatable means having an attachment pin and an inflection-deflection pin mounted thereon,

10 wherein said attachment point also passed through the hole in said center of said circular elastic means.

Claim 7 The apparatus of claim 6 further including:

15 a pair of animated eye simulation means that operate in a coordinated fashion with actuation of said circular elastic means.

Claim 8 The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said elastic means comprises:

20 an elastic material coupled to an attachment point on the upper surface of said first rotatable means and to an attachment point on the upper surface of said second rotatable means such that the elastic material can be deformed by axial rotation of at least one of said rotatable means.

Claim 9 The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

25 a base;
a first immovable point means attached to said base for contacting said elastic means, wherein said first immovable point means does not move with respect to said base.

Claim 10 The apparatus of claim 9 further comprising:

30 a second immovable point means also attached to said base for contacting said elastic means,

wherein said second immovable point means does not move with respect to said base.

Claim 11 The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said attachment point and said inflection-deflection pin on said first rotatable means is spaced apart from said first rotatable means by a

first support arm and said attachment pin and said inflection-deflection pin on said second rotatable means is also spaced apart from said second rotatable means by a second support arm.

- 5 Claim 12 The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said elastic material include a ridge therein for engaging said attachment points and said inflection-deflection pins.

- Claim 13 The apparatus claim 1 wherein said elastic material includes lip sections for engaging said attachment points and said inflection-deflection pins and an elastic mouth
10 section located between said lip sections.